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Imagining America

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Wednesday, February 27

Overview

We announced the Call for Participation for the IA National Conference. "A Call to Action" is the theme of the October 4-6 event in Syracuse, NY. We encourage colleagues to develop interdisciplinary sessions that involve a variety of initiatives and institutions from across the country. The [deadline for proposing sessions](#) is April 12.

Co-Directors Scott Peters and Tim Eatman have been on the road representing IA. Recently at UC-Davis, Scott [presented](#) on "Making the 'People's University,'" and met with campus and community stakeholders about organizing an [IA chapter](#). In the next month, Tim will lead various sessions at Ohio State University, [University of Delaware](#), and [Fairfield University](#), and Scott will present at [Binghamton University](#) and [University of Texas at Austin](#).

We launched the IA Institute on Community Organizing. Taking place June 25-27 in Los Angeles, the Institute will provide a space for campus and community leaders from a limited number of IA member institutions to engage in deep reflection and discussion about theories and practices of organizing that draw on the strengths of the arts, humanities, and design fields. Please [register your interest in participating](#) by March 4.

We shared the latest in our web series, "The New Activists: Students in the Community." The [five-minute video](#) profiles a Cornell University undergraduate student-athlete whose personal experience of suddenly being struck with epilepsy in her sophomore year motivates her to create a nonprofit organization to educate kids and the public about the disease.

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Imagining America

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In the News

Under Secretary of Education for the U.S. Department of Education **Martha Kanter** [wrote](#) about the importance of civic learning and engagement, citing Tim Eatman's keynote at the Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education conference last November and IA's research on expanding tenure and promotion policies for publicly engaged scholarship.



What role do arts and culture play in preparing young people to be active citizens, problem solvers, and leaders in their communities? IA Board Member **Pam Korza** featured the IA consortium in a [blog post](#) for the American Democracy Project.

A local radio station and newspaper [reported](#) on the IA-sponsored performance and dialogue project in Syracuse, **The D.R.E.A.M. Freedom Revival (DFR)**. In collaboration with senior citizens, the DFR's recent event highlighted the vitality, contributions, and rights of older people. Read more about it in [SU News](#).



Partner Spotlight

Our friends at [Citizen Alum](#) are hosting a Summer Institute, June 11-12 at the University of Minnesota's Jandris Center for Innovative Higher Education, for campus teams to utilize alumni as crucial partners in building multigenerational communities of active citizenship and learning. The sessions will focus on planning with allies, connecting engagement and inclusion, and building research capacity. Contact Julie Ellison (jeson@umich.edu) for details about registration, beginning March 1.

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